



Office of the Mayor

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Local Student Musicians Help Celebrate South Bend's Polish Culture

The winners of the 19th Annual Chopin Youth Piano Competition will perform on Sunday, May 20, 2007, at 2:00 p.m., at the South Bend Christian Reformed Church, 1855 N. Hickory Rd. Immediately following the winners' recitals, contest judge and guest artist Professor Matthew Hill, Associate Professor of Music at Goshen College, will present a short talk on "The Teaching of Chopin," and a performance of Frederic Chopin's "Ballade in G Minor." Admission is free, and the public is welcome to enjoy and celebrate the work of these talented musicians.

This year's winners are:

- Senior Division (Grades 10-12)
 - Winners Matt Bilik & Renula Mitra
 - Honorable Mention..... Lance Wu
- Junior Division (Grades 7-9)
 - Winner Kyle Zhang
 - Honorable Mention..... Francis Chen
- Elementary Division (Grades 4-6)
 - Winner Anthony Kolbus
 - Honorable Mention..... John Ferlic

The Chopin Youth Piano Competition is sponsored by the Chopin Fine Arts Club and the South Bend Music Teachers Association. The Club was established in 1939 to help foster

appreciation of Polish culture and arts in South Bend, and to help provide scholarships to local high school students who exhibit excellence in the areas of visual and performing arts.

“Frederic Chopin was the one of the first western classical composers to infuse Slavic elements into his music,” stated Mary Sue Freitag, Competition Chairperson. “Even today, his mazurkas and polonaises are the cornerstone of Polish nationalistic classical music. This competition helps us educate young students about his importance in 19th century Romantic classical music, and also reinforce the importance of Polish culture in South Bend.”

South Bend’s Polish ties extend back to the end of the Civil War, and continue today through its Sister City relationship with Czestochowa, Poland, and the heritage and contributions of South Bend’s Polish-American citizens.